

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended, deletions are indicated by ~~strike through~~, and additions are indicated by underlining:

In the claims:

1. – 25. (Canceled).

26. (Original): Apparatus for performing a medical procedure within a hollow body organ of tortuous or unpredictably supported anatomy, the apparatus comprising:

an overtube having a flexible state that facilitates insertion of the overtube into the hollow body organ, and a rigid state wherein the overtube resists bending forces exerted on the overtube; and

a mechanism selectively operable to reversibly transition the overtube between the flexible and rigid states, wherein at least a portion of the overtube is configured to be manipulated from outside the hollow body organ.

27. (Original): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein at least one section of the overtube is adapted to remain in the flexible state upon transition of the overtube to the rigid state.

28. (Original): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein at least one section of the overtube comprises varied rigidity relative to a different section of the overtube when the overtube is disposed in the rigid state.

29. (Original): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein at least one section of the overtube comprises varied flexibility relative to a different section of the overtube when the overtube is disposed in the flexible state.

30. (Original): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein at least one section of the

overtube comprises is steerable.

31. (New): The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:
a catheter having a flexible tube with a distal region configured for insertion through the overtube and into the hollow body organ; and
a tissue engaging assembly disposed on the distal region, the tissue engaging assembly defining a first tissue contact point.
32. (New): The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
a second tissue contact point disposed at a location initially proximal of, or in line with, the first tissue contact point.
33. (New): The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
a tissue approximation device for moving the first tissue contact point to a position proximal of the second tissue contact point to form a tissue fold.
34. (New): The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising a third tissue contact point disposed at a location initially proximal of, or in line with, the first tissue contact point, wherein the tissue approximation device for moving moves the first tissue contact point to a position proximal of the third tissue contact point to form the tissue fold, so that the second and third tissue contact points are disposed on opposing sides of the tissue fold.
35. (New): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the tissue approximation device for moving linearly displaces the first tissue contact point relative to the second and third tissue contact points.
36. (New): The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising an anchor delivery system adapted to deliver an anchor assembly and secure a tissue fold.
37. (New): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the anchor delivery system

comprises a flexible delivery catheter adapted for insertion into the hollow body organ.

38. (New): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the flexible delivery catheter is configured to buckle into transverse alignment with the tissue fold.

39. (New): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the anchor delivery system further comprises a needle configured for advancement through the flexible delivery catheter and for transverse passage through the tissue fold.

40. (New): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the anchor assembly is configured for delivery through the needle.

41. (New): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the tissue engaging assembly is configured to engage mucosa, thereby defining the first tissue contact point.

42. (New): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the tissue engaging assembly is configured to engage muscularis, thereby defining the first tissue contact point.

43. (New): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the tissue engaging assembly is configured to engage serosa, thereby defining the first tissue contact point.

44. (New): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the tissue fold comprises serosa-to-serosa tissue contact and the anchor assembly is adapted to secure the serosa-to-serosa tissue contact.